

REMARKS

Claims 10 to 21 are retained unamended and claims 1 to 9, which were non-elected, have been canceled subject to filing in a divisional application.

Claims 10 to 13 and 16 to 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zekeriya et al. (U.S. 6,607,962). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 10 requires, in addition to other steps, the steps of forming a layer of titanium (Ti) over the first and second TFFR vias, and forming a layer of titanium nitride (TiN) on the (Ti) layer, the layer of Ti and the layer of TiN forming a first electrical interface portion to the first end of the TFR and a second electrical interface portion to the second end of the TFR. No such steps are taught or even remotely suggested by Zekeriya et al.

A review of column 5, line 58ff with reference to Fig. 7 clearly indicates that a combination of Ti and TiN is deposited rather than individual layers as required by claim 10. The combination of Ti and TiN is stated to be an etch stop and is shown as a single layer 116. The use of two distinctive layers has an advantage over the prior art as stated in the specification as page 6, lines 18 to 28 and is not used as an etch stop.

Claims 11 to 13 and 16 to 18 depend from claim 10 and therefore define patentably over Zekeriya et al. for at least the reasons presented above with reference to claim 10.

Claims 14 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zekeriya et al. in view of Lammert (U.S. 6,475,400). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

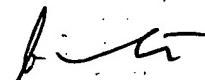
Both claims require the steps discussed above with reference to claim 10. Lammert in no way overcomes this deficiency.

Claims 15, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.103(a) as being unpatentable over Zekeriya et al. in view of Lammert further in view of Xu et al. (U.S. 6,313,027). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Each of these claims requires the steps discussed above with reference to claim 10. Neither Lammert nor Xu et al. in any way overcome this deficiency.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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